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ANDEAN PACT 'POSITIVE' ON AMAZON PACT PLANS

PY272327Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1552 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Mar--The five countries making up the subregional Andean Pact are holding "a positive attitude" toward the Brazilian proposal to establish an integration organization for the development of the Amazon region, Emilio Figueredo Planchart, head of the Venezuelan delegation, stated today.

The Venezuelan delegate essentially became the spokesman of the Andean Pact countries which, together with Surinam and Guyana, are studying here the revised draft presented by Brazil.

A ceremony held in Brasilia today, headed by Joao Hermes Pereira de Araujo, head of the Itamaraty Department of the Americas, inaugurated the meeting which is scheduled to last until 31 March. On this occasion, Pereira de Araujo stated to the delegates from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela that this meeting to review the draft showed the interest of the countries represented at the meeting to discuss the Brazilian proposal. [words indistinct]

The delegates from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela will meet again today. This meeting is considered by Figueredo Planchart as a routine meeting of these Andean Pact countries to review the Amazon Pact document and its relation with the Cartagena Agreement. Figueredo Planchart explained that a document of this type is always subject to legal formalities and that this is really the first meeting devoted to thoroughly reviewing the issue.

He stated that the first meeting, which was also held in Brasilia, revealed only the countries' points of view on the Brazilian proposal. Figueredo Planchart explained: "Everything is decided on the basis of consensus, and the Andean Pact countries have a positive approach regarding the initiative to establish this new integration organization."

BOLIVIAN ATTENDANCE AT TRILATERAL TALKS IN DOUBT

PY272308Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1543 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar--The preparatory conference for the tripartite meeting of the armed forces of Chile, Peru and Bolivia, which will be held in Lima in August, started here today. The Peruvian delegation is presided over by Brig Gen (Ludwli Essenwanjer). There is still no news, however, about the arrival of the Bolivian military delegation which is supposed to attend this preparatory meeting.

Bolivia broke diplomatic relations with Chile on 17 March after the failure of the negotiations to achieve a sea outlet.

The Chilean delegation is headed by Defense Minister Hermann Brady Roche.

During this conference, which is being held at the Chilean Foreign Ministry, the delegations will prepare the agenda for the military meeting to be held in Lima.

There have been two similar conferences in the past, the first one held in Santiago in 1976 and the second in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1977. In a statement to journalists, General (Essenwanjer) said that the aim of these tripartite conferences is to search for points of agreement between the three countries' armed forces "to avoid misunderstanding which may create some kind of problem among us."

LAMI DOZO DELIVERS MESSAGE ON JUNTA'S ANNIVERSARY

PY271945Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Military junta message read in Buenos Aires on 27 March by Air Force Secretary General Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo at the principal ceremony commemorating second anniversary of military takeover--live]

[Text] From the military junta to the population of the republic:

When the army assumed supreme power in the nation on 24 March 1976, the military junta explained to the country the causes which motivated the intervention of the armed forces and it set the guidelines, purposes and objectives of the process for national reorganization. The power vacuum which threatened us with moral dissoluteness and anarchy has been filled by the armed forces whose unity and cohesion have been and will be the cornerstones of the process.

The military junta's proclamation of 2 years ago indicated the need for legal and social order, ethical and moral principles and respect for the rights and dignity of man in order to achieve unity of the Argentines and recovery of the national identity.

Armed subversion has been scattered and efforts to pull up its last roots, even those very deeply hidden, continue. Chaos has been eliminated. A government exists. The republic is again regaining its traditional tranquillity. Today we can say that we consider ourselves satisfied with what has been done during these 2 difficult initial years. Having imposed order and strengthened security and coexistence, we have laid the basis upon which the following stages will be built. We well know that there is, and there always will be, a lot to do and we will do it, with dedication for serving and not with an appetite for power; with an awareness of our errors and sure of our honest intentions. We see that the country is still unsatisfied but we remember that 2 years ago it was desperate.

Within our ultimate purpose to reestablish a republican, representative and federal democracy which will be suitable for the times and for the progress of the Argentine people, achieving general welfare levels is a prior requisite which is possible only through adequate economic growth consistent with the principles of social justice and taking into account equality of opportunity and community solidarity.

The armed forces government has set a course. It would not have been able to follow it without the invaluable contribution of faith, patience, creativity and understanding of the republic's population, without the stoic contribution and the patriotic resignation of those who have accepted and accept the postponement of their legitimate parochial needs for benefit of the whole. We would be unjust if we did not make public our recognition of this brilliance and generosity.

For our part, we do not want our fellow citizens to have any doubts about the firmness with which the armed forces look after the sovereignty of our territory, our waters and our airspace. Because Argentina is solidly located within the world of justice and legality this firmness has been exercised with cordiality toward those who are our friends and brothers. But there is no hesitation in the defense of what belongs to us, and in rejection of illegitimate aspirations over our historical patrimony, in the assertion of Argentine rights which some wish to question and in taking advantage of the wealth and happiness of our population, the resources which God bestowed upon us.

The armed forces have never made vain promises nor have they assumed demagogic attitudes, and they will not do so next 24 March when the next message of 24 March will no longer be the responsibility of the men who are today members of the military junta, the supreme organization of the state.

The process which we Argentines are undergoing will not be brief because it will not be limited to merely a momentary restoration. This is why the armed forces are drafting the political basis which will allow the nation to walk the path of democracy, justice and freedom without the risks and hidden obstacles which have been characteristic of our history over the past few decades. On this path there will be a progressive participation by civilians in government functions in order to insure the firm and continued march toward the ends being pursued. If this is shared by the nation's social infrastructure, there is no reason why its members should be excluded from the hard task of putting them into practice.

Having restored the conditions for coexistence of all those who inhabit this land, the circumstances today are appropriate for quickening the pace along the path of progress, progress of freedom, and of order with justice.

We had to fight a fight which was imposed on us with courage and sacrifice. Today we face the challenge of deserving peace, which is the only asset which justifies the wrongs of war; a worthy peace, built with tolerance, moderation, commitment, bountiful work and, above all, love for the fatherland.

We ask for the protection of God, source of all reason and justice, and we once again call upon the Argentine people for the effort to reorganize the country in order to determinedly forge the nation's greatness.

Let it so be.

HERALD DISCUSSES QUALITY OF NATION'S DEMOCRACY

PY271345Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 26 Mar 78 pp 2, 13 PY

["Politics and Labour" column by James Neilson: "Argentine Democracy at Work"]

[Text] We are now in the third year of military rule and the novelty has worn off long ago. The population, which had become accustomed to expecting overwhelming change in the immediate future, does not like this very much. To judge by the ant-in-the-pants behaviour of the political pros, a lot of people have the two-year itch. The government, sensing this, has been polishing its "political proposal."

It is unlikely to be enough, but it will have to do.

Of course, a long period of dull stability and honest toil is what the nation needs following the great debauch, and, as there are no plausible alternatives in sight, President Videla and his partners will have to be the ones to supervise it. The president, a somewhat vague presence, not all like his freakish predecessors, evidently finds this role congenial. Constructing a huge building is far less exhilarating than knocking one down. But it is far more worthwhile.

The last few weeks have seen Argentine democracy at work. This is not that mimicry of European or North American systems usually awarded the coveted title, quite unjustifiably.

It is a genuinely indigenous phenomenon. It may not be much like Westminster democracy, but it is also a far cry from the stereotyped (aca mando yo, carajo!) Latin American military dictatorship. As in most countries until quite recently, it is a very limited form of democracy, with only a very special caste allowed to participate. But it has its merits and should not be despised. After all, it is what we have got and is all we are likely to get for sometime.

In its way it is comparable to the curious inner democracy that functions inside large Japanese corporations. Policies are discussed wide-rangingly in the separate departments until a consensus emerges. Then the people who had been quarrelling ferociously with each other close ranks, discard their differences, and accept the consensus as theirs. The different approaches produced by the various departments are then merged into a general consensus. The higher the individual is on the totem pole, the bigger his contribution to the final policies, but even the corporation chief is very careful to get the agreement and not just the obedience of those below him. This decision-making process takes a lot of time, as infuriated Westerners have often found out, but it has many advantages. Japanese corporations may appear to spend far too long mulling over apparently simple questions. But when a decision is made they move fast and everyone in the corporation moves in the same direction.

Argentine military government works much the same way. The days when an autocratic caudillo decided everything, from the way people should tie their shoelaces to the nation's opponent in the next war, have vanished. Policies are thought up, chewed over, and agreed upon at several levels, and then are gradually collated with the policies produced by the other services until the military government's final policy emerges. That is one reason why this government can be excruciatingly slow, and why some policies that emerge can be hopelessly fuzzy, a patchwork of rhetoric put together to please everybody. But it prevents the armed services from splitting over trivialities. And this, when men trained for war are concerned, can only be a blessing.

The army leaders have been pondering the political proposal that will represent the government's new blueprint for the nation's future. In its present form it is a less grandiose version of the nation-building fantasies that haunted the fog-shrouded paragraphs of the national project. It may even contain the germ of a future government party, modestly disguised as a mere movement of public opinion. This idea has been floating around for years and however many times it is chased away it manages to come back. The reluctance of the top echelons of the armed forces to commit themselves to it is understandable and does them credit: It is not a long step from asking all men of good will to join an official party, to claiming that all who do not are the enemies of the nation. An attempt to set up a one-party state in Argentina, whether modelled on the one Mexico now has or on the one Germany once had, would probably be doomed. The Peronists tried it and they came nearer to success than anyone is likely to in the future--touch wood.

The air force brass have also been meeting to grope their way towards their common policy. These meetings, being staged in the Condor Building, are concerned partly with examining the big picture--the national destiny and how the military regime is helping it--and the performance of air force officers in their ministries and provincial gubernatorial mansions. The airmen must also, needless to say, file down some of the rough edges in their position so it can be fitted neatly alongside those of the other two armed services.

Last week, the air force had an interesting visitor--South Africa's Air Force Chief Lt General Robert Rogers. There has been a considerable increase in coming-and-going between Argentina and South Africa in the last few years, involving tourism, sports, public relations--both countries suffer from image acne--and military cooperation.

The possibility of a South Atlantic pact is always latent, although it is vigorously denied whenever mentioned. U.S. participation would be desirable for obvious reasons, but is clearly out of the question now, with Andy Young running Jimmy Carter's Africa policy, such as it is. But it is possible to imagine the circumstances that would make such a pact feasible: major changes in Pretoria's domestic policy, a return to unemotional realpolitik in Washington, a few more bushwackings by Moscow's Cuban hired guns in Africa, and a desire by the Argentine Government and people to play a world role (as similarly-sized countries like Canada and Australia have for over half a century) rather than spend their days examining their collective navel and boasting about their moral superiority to the crude materialistic pushing nations that happen to be leading the world.

The admirals are, like their army and air force counterparts, also in almost permanent conference these days. Naval commissions have been examining all sorts of things, such as the effects of the new rent law, relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the state, the judiciary, the welfare organizations attached to the labour unions, and, of course, the government's economic policy and its political consequences. The admirals have also been listening to Martinez de Hoz explain what he is up to and, according to the leaks that invariably follow even the most private meetings held on Argentine soil, have not been entirely satisfied. Apparently the civilian has been unable to bring inflation down quick enough to raise wage levels fast enough and was therefore in need of a dressing down. The navy, to judge by the speeches of its leaders and the articles that have appeared in the official publication, GACETA MARINERA, has chosen to take an admonitory position regarding the economic management of the country, and is constantly prodding Martinez de Hoz to get wages going up faster. The navy cares about the humble working man and wants to see him prosper as soon as possible. But there is not much sense in trying to hustle a skilled pilot when he is taking you through a dangerous rock-infested sea passage and storms are likely to come barrelling in at any moment.

Civilian ministers in a military government are in a difficult position. They are not protected by their exhalted place in some military hierarchy, as are their uniformed colleagues--who, if they are senior enough, can get away with blundering that would wreck the careers of mere politicians. All they have going for them are the force of their intellects and the persuasiveness of their tongues. When gauging their strength Stalin's question about the number of divisions at the disposal of the pope comes to mind. Martinez de Hoz has by sheer competence and clarity of vision accumulated his own army group. His only civilian colleague in the cabinet, Education Minister Juan Jose Catalan, is far less firmly entrenched. The day Martinez de Hoz departs will be a major watershed and dismay will grip Argentina's many wellwishers around the world. If Catalan were to quit few people outside Argentina--and not everybody in it--would notice.

This is not really Catalan's fault. When the military took over, education, like everything else, was a shameful mess. The Peronist drive to make Argentina a part of the Third World was proving eminently successful. To reverse this the military wanted a civilian with suitable ideas about education as minister, but they were not really sure what these ideas had to be. The candidate would have to be an ostentatiously devout Roman Catholic, in favour of "relevant" vocational training but opposed to too much "materialism." A pragmatist may be ideal in the Economy Ministry but, as General Ovidio Solari made abundantly clear when declaring the B.A. Province school year open, there is no place for one in the classrooms of the nation. Once someone who more or less fitted the military identikit portrait of an education minister was found, he had to face the fact that while the government was willing to pay lip service over and over again to the value of education, it was also determined to spend a lower portion of the national income on it than any other government in the Western world. The first military education minister, Ricardo Bruera, flopped dismally, as one might have expected from a former Frejuli supporter.

Catalan is the second. He opened his spell in office with a long, opaque, high-falutin speech which delighted his immediate friends but puzzled everyone else. As the poor fellow had no money for education he really had no alternative to talking about how noble education is. When this year's budget was being put together he reportedly fought manfully for more cash, but without notable success. Culture and education gets a miserable 8.8 percent, about a third of what it should have (defence and security get 19.5 percent between them). Yet still the myth persists that Argentines have a special passion for education! Expenditure in those decadent materialistic Anglo-Saxon, Teutonic, or Scandinavian countries should be studied. One of the main reasons why so many people are so poor here will become apparent.

On Monday Catalan announced his educational "reforms," which are supposed to start with pre-primary education and work their way upwards. They are. he said briskly, effective immediately. There is some shuffling of the lengths of the various stages (primary down from seven to six years). The need for vocational training is recognized. So too is the need to wipe out the illiteracy that is apparently spreading at the base of Catalan's pyramid.

Like all previous Argentine education ministers, Catalan is an expert at describing, in general terms, the sort of thing education is supposed to do to the young. In the minister's programme there is a lot about teaching kids the "dignity of man" and the "knowledge of society as natural reality." People are also supposed to know their place in the "hierarchy" and approve of the "stability of the family." Everyone, moreover, must be formed in "a scale of values that stems from the Christian conception of man," which is no doubt welcome in the Jewish community, not to speak of the Moslems, Buddhists, and the ever much larger numbers of agnostics and atheists.

Noting down a list of desiderata for an educational system is something anyone can do for amusement on a rainy afternoon. Designing the educational system to achieve them is a task of great difficulty. Creating such a system after it has been planned, specially if you are determined to spend hardly any money on it, borders on the impossible.

Catalan's message was not well received by the Council of Rectors of the private universities, which complained that Catalan had not bothered to consult them, and feared that their freedom will be clipped by regional university councils of future education ministers because Catalan has apparently brushed aside the Council of Rectors, a legally constituted consultative body. More interesting than the specific points raised by the private universities was their evident jumpiness, as though they suspected Catalan was out to get them and felt they had to hit back straight away.

One significant feature of Catalan's plan was the introduction of fees for state university education--the principle now is you pay for education you want, but the taxpayer foots the bill for education forced on you. Most universities in most Western countries bill their students, and the sums can be hefty. But there are also well-developed scholarship systems so the brighter, at least, can get some help. In some places students can get loans for their education and pay them back later. Demanding fees has many advantages. One is that it keeps the drones, the professional students who spend a lifetime pretending to learn pseudo-sciences like sociology, out of the lecture halls. Another is that they teach a vital lesson: There is no such thing as a free university education. Somebody, even if it does not happen to be the student or his family, must foot the bill.

LAST-MINUTE EFFORTS FOR ACCORD WITH CHILE FAILED

PY272154Y La Paz EL DIARIO 21 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Text] During last week and the week before, Bolivia engaged in several steps trying to unstick [desestanear] negotiations with Chile, but President Augusto Pinochet's veto became the barrier to these efforts, according to reports from reliable sources. Willy Vargas Vacaflor was sent as special envoy from the government of the armed forces to see how far negotiations could go toward the appointment of delegates as agreed upon in the meeting which the Bolivian, Peruvian and Chilean presidents held in Washington in September 1977.

According to information obtained by our reporters, Vargas first talked with high Chilean officials on the corridor issue and the Bolivian request for Chile to give up its demand for territorial exchange. The response was not only returning to the conditions established in the December 1975 Chilean note but also a sudden hardening [of the Chilean attitude]. Bolivia was requested not only to accept the territorial exchange, including the continental shelf and the removal of troops from the corridor, but also to negotiate with Peru for approval of the cession of the corridor offered by Chile. Alternative proposals presented by Vargas were also rejected by Pinochet, according to reports which we have received.

DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION RECORDS TO REMAIN SECRET

PY280322Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Text] During the last few years, public opinion, through institutions, citizens and the press, has demanded precise information about all the government's diplomatic negotiations. Now Secretary General of Integration Willy Vargas has told the newspaper PRESENCIA that official documents, letters between Presidents Banzer and Pinochet and other confidential protocols will not be revealed to the public. According to recent accusations made by the Socialist Party these documents reportedly prove the use of Lauca River waters and the overall acceptance by the Bolivian Government of the idea of territorial exchange.

EL DIARIO CALLS U.S. RIGHTS POLICY HYPOCRITICAL

PY251237Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 78 p 2 PY

[Editorial: "Carter and Human Rights"]

[Text] As soon as he entered the White House, Jimmy Carter involved himself in an ideological debate between the East and the West using the issue of human rights as the principal weapon against Soviet power. The motivation to carry out this debate stems from the moralistic sentiments of the semirural southern politician, while the rationale for it is provided by Carter's national security adviser, the "technotronic" Zbigniew Brzezinski. This issue, which has broader implications, has placed the rivalry between the two great world powers in a new light. It has contributed to the pulling of the rug from under a country which had always boasted a revolutionary rhetoric and a progressive position, thus making it appear a rather obscurantist country, not too concerned with respect for the human personality; but it has not contributed much to the detente which had been partially achieved by the more realistic former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Venezuelan writer Demetrio Boersner recently examined the impact of the movement launched by the U.S. President, saying that "from the Latin American nationalistic viewpoint, we must carefully look at the paternalistic implications of the Carter policy on human rights. Certainly the intention of the current U.S. Government is not to end the special--paternalistic and hegemonic--relations of the United States with Latin America. Its objective is not to bring about a structural change but only a reform within the existing structure." In sum, the initiative seems positive and praiseworthy, but insufficient.

It is worth recalling that between the industrialized and underdeveloped countries there exists a relationship of dependency in every respect. This is the context in which the multinational companies operate and so these companies, in their greed for prerogatives and advantages in installing their manufacturing subsidiaries, do not hesitate to exercise their power supporting authoritarian or outright dictatorial regimes. Proceeding this way, the alliance will condemn to poverty and unemployment the majority of the people and secure wealth and good living for the minority committed to the system. Any outbreak of discontent is snuffed out by force, in disregard of constitutional guarantees. Thus we can see that there is a direct correlation between human rights and social justice.

Carter has the image of a reformist president, but his reformism is aimed at preserving what is essential in the current economic and social system, strengthening it with ideologically humanistic ingredients and with mechanisms capable of smoothing out the rough edges of oppression and exploitation inherent in the current Western structures. But Carter pays no attention to the yoke of dependency resting on the neck of the underdeveloped countries and this explains why his representatives in the international economic cooperation conference (May-June 1977) were opposed to the general price stabilization of raw materials, to the indexing of manufactured goods prices in the dominant nations, and to the general debt moratorium for weak countries. And now President Carter has just taken off his mask, trying to ruin Bolivia's revenues by releasing on the international market U.S. strategic tin stockpiles which Bolivia itself had helped to stock witn tin sold at ridiculously low prices. No generosity and no good will is shown toward a country which has no other desire than to improve the standard of living of its own people.

The contradictions of Carter's government can easily be seen. It is a paradox that his government should persecute Puerto Rican nationalists, jail them and silence them without allowing them to defend themselves, thus trampling on those very human rights which he is ostensibly promoting as president. This is such an obvious double standard that it is frankly confusing and appears to be a great act of hypocrisy to an impartial observer.

No extreme position in advisable. All dictatorships which trample on human rights to preserve oligarchic interests deserve censure, just as those who use the issue of human rights to shield paternalistic attitudes and gloss over spurious schemes of dependency, such as the lopsided relations favoring metropolitan centers over stagnating peripheral areas. Neither internal nor foreign colonialism can be accepted behind the mask of apparently humanitarian rules.

OPEN LETTER OF PRIN DETAILS PARTY STRATEGY

PY241925Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Mar 78 p 18 PY

[Open letter of Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left-PRIN: "Our Revolutionary Struggle"]

[Excerpt] At the current stage, characterized by a fascist policy in every aspect of national life, by the country's mortgage to imperialism, by a misshapened development policy, and by the use of external credit and internal resources to obtain consumer goods rather than to achieve industrial development to change the country's status from a monoproducer, the $1 billion which has been loaned, with the government's guarantee, to private enterprise has the effect of impoverishing the population even more.

Mining policy, which follows the same tendency, economically weakens the small miners and cooperative miners more than others. Despite increases in prices they cannot mechanize their installations in order to lower production costs. Medium-sized mining operations, despite the fact that 50 percent of their gross production is taken from them, reap bumper profits due more to low salaries than to administrative capability. The case of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL] is tragic. Because of an incapable administration imposed on it and an increasingly insensitive bureaucracy and scandalous negotiations, its production costs have risen to incredible heights while the salaries of the workers have been reduced.

The economic aggression of Yankee imperialism through the sale of its mineral reserves has the sole objective of provoking a fall in prices. This is nothing strange for us because it is one of the typical forms which imperialism uses in order to continue dominating our country. Another form of aggression which causes a greater impoverishment of dependent countries is that of provoking armed confrontations in order to sell armaments, thus reducing resources which could have been used for development. Governments of these countries, in order to impose an antinational and antiworker policy, resort to repressive methods which lead to uncontrollable and unmeasurable administrative corruption and illegal wealth and these vices extend to the labor leaders and the army. Never has there been so much immorality and lack of patriotism.

The failure of the CHARANA EMBRACE has been acknowledged by the government itself through the severing of relations with Chile in order to shake off the dust of its incapability. What remains is the stagnation of the Bolivian position regarding our right to a sea outlet, which has been acknowledged by Chile for more than 90 years, without any territorial compensation. By admitting in its negotiations behind the backs of the people that conquests give rights, but not adknowledging the world principle that conquests endow no rights, the current government endangers national sovereignty.

To this must be added the fact that the transfer of our mineral wealth to foreign monopolies is also a type of an attack on our sovereignty. This policy is due to the fact that the current government permits the economic and political expansion of Brazil, allowing Brazilians sponsored by the Brazilian Government [bandeirantes] to enter the fatherland so that, following an old tactic of the Brazilian military, they then claim our territory as was the case of Acre [now a western state of Brazil]. Under the pretext of new border delimitations, the government has ceded Brazil 32,000 square km and has opened the doors for unusual Brazilian trade and economic expansion.

PRIN maintains that a leftist front is needed because under current conditions it is the only part which supports the interests and desires of workers and oppressed people against the country's internal and external enemies; a front which is not only conditioned to the electoral process but also to the permanent defense of the people's interests. This is not a denial of the need to participate in electoral processes which, in the previous seven elections, have proven to be merely a method to serve the executive branch. Therefore, if there are no substantial reforms in the electoral law and the current process remains in force, we will not participate in the elections because it would mean that we support the fraud.

Before suggesting a minimum program for the unity of the left we must make clear that the armed forces must withdraw from the mining and peasant districts and from the cities and move to the borders to prepare to defend our territorial integrity. The government knows that there is the danger of an international confrontation. If there is a spark of patriotic and nationalistic spirit in the military they must abandon the functions for which they are not prepared and carry out the role for which they were prepared and organized at sacrifice of the people.

Imperialism has revealed itself through the new economic aggression to be an enemy of the Bolivian people and the answer must be given in practical measures and not just words. In other words, nationalize Yankee enterprises in the country, expel the U.S. military and cultural missions, and declare a moratorium on the debts which the government has contracted with Yankee banks and institutions in order to protect ourselves from the loss of income due to the reduction in the price of minerals, in view of the United States having placed its reserves on the international market. At the same time the government must lift all repressive measures against the popular masses; it must cancel the so-called "military-peasant pact;" it must grant full freedom to allow the peasants to organize; and it must abrogate the state security law.

We are struggling for the full rights of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB]; for the unity of the worker and popular movement which is organized within the COB; for the elimination of scandalous public works deals; and for university autonomy and joint teacher-student management.

"ONLY THE ORGANIZED PEOPLE SAVE THE PEOPLE"

La Paz, 19 March 1978

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PRIN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: [signed] MARIO CARRASCO MARIN, EDGARDO VASQUEZ TAPIA AND LUIS LOPEZ A.

SEALED: PRIN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, La Paz, Bolivia

BRIEFS

EXTENSION OF ELECTRICAL NETWORK--Santa Cruz, 13 Mar--The National Electricity Enterprise has started tests of the equipment which will be installed in the third stage of extension of the local electric plant which will supply energy to Santa Cruz and its rural areas. This equipment was supplied by the Japanese firm Marubeni. This new stage includes the installation of a 22,800-kw turbine, a 10-to-69 kw substation with a 90-kva transformer and a 10-kv transportable substation. All equipment was manufactured by the Hitachi enterprise in Japan. With this new equipment the electric plant will have a power of 66 mw. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Mar 78 p 2 PY]

CAUSES OF U.S.-BRAZILIAN DISAGREEMENTS EXAMINED

PY280104Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Mar 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Democratic Link"]

[Text] In their meeting next Wednesday, it can be expected that Presidents Geisel and Carter would appropriately evaluate the ties which constitute the structure of U.S.-Brazilian relations. From the perspective of their high responsibilities and good judgment, they should be able to determine the proper ways leading to the creation of a lasting, friendly and mutually useful relationship between the two principal nations of the American continent.

Ties survive because they have strong historical roots, but their full expression depends on the resolution of some superficial disagreements which have separated the governments lately.

It is deceitful to suppose that the question of human rights and nuclear proliferation is at the core of their disagreements. The reason for these disagreements lies in the essential difference in the nature of the Brazilian and U.S. political systems. Although the question of human rights and nuclear proliferation has an importance of its own, because of its intrinsic relevance and its worrisome prospects for the world, the suspicions which brought on the disagreements sprang from, or were enhanced by, the less-than-democratic features of the Brazilian regime. Therefore, the suspicions were not raised over Brazil, but over the Brazilian regime, although the whole nation has been affected by them, both in its foreign relations and its internal situation.

Many times, when international pressures were being applied to Brazil recently, the argument was advanced in Brazil that the rich and powerful countries consider the poor and weak countries irresponsible. The argument touched on national pride and gained for the regime the support of all those in our midst who reject the idea that Brazil and Uganda can be placed on the same docket for international judgment. It is even likely that some U.S. and European diplomats are guided by that type of prejudice, that Uganda and Brazil are all the same thing. And it is true that the world's clamor for democracy in Brazil has had its meaning maliciously distorted here as a manifestation of colonialism.

At the harshest point in the disagreements with the United States, that type of distorted interpretation of Brazil was brought up against the U.S. restrictions on our nuclear program. More recently, the same type of interpretation was made about the objections raised by the Netherlands Government and segments of the British Parliament against URENCO's [the British, Netherlands, FRG consortium] supplying enriched Uranium to Brazil in the future. Certainly, the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands do not equate Brazil with Uganda and do not consider both of them irresponsible. Brazil's status as an important nation, which is beginning to take part in international decisions, is today recognized by the whole world. This, however, is no reason for those same countries to make no restrictions on the regime existing in Brazil or to have no reservations on closed political systems with no social controls when it comes to the discretionary use of technologies which are related to the world's security. In addition to the problems of credibility stemming from the nature of the Brazilian political system, it should be noted that Brazil's nuclear program depends on international negotiations for its implementation.

Although it has promised to offer additional guarantees as to the peaceful nature of its nuclear program, the Brazilian Government still has not fulfilled its promise and has made no move to seriously consider the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and the clause putting into effect the Tlaltelolco Treaty. Without passing judgment on these positions, it should be pointed out that the members of the international community, including the United States, focus their attention on these positions. Consequently, these positions should be dealt with in the agenda of talks between Presidents Geisel and Carter.

The Brazilian Government has possibilities for seeing to it that the nuclear agreement with the FRG becomes viable through a system of international safeguards. Nevertheless, if we wanted to provide more solid and durable assurances to assuage the world's fear, by broadening the basis of the credibility of our commitments, the correct path is the redemocratization of Brazil's current political system. The same is true regarding human rights. In fact, if we can take note of some progress in this realm, we cannot deny that human rights are still disrespected in Brazil. Eliminating that disrespect and convincing the world that we have greater respect for human rights depends on the rebuilding of internal institutions to put a stop to arbitrary rulings and to show that we can concretely live up to those principles. In this deeper and broader sense, the cause of the disagreements between Brazil and the United States is to be found more in the Brazilian internal situation than in the context of bilateral relations.

In light of international tradition, it seems obvious that the agenda of talks between Presidents Geisel and Carter should not include questions of internal politics. But is is precisely here where the crux of the matter lies. The primary interest of both presidents should be finding a common area where they can build the foundations for total cooperation, free from interferences.

So that this can be accomplished, Brazil must evolve toward a more democratic regime and the United States must consolidate its commitments, i.e., Carter's commitments to do away with interventionist practices which have made some dents in our bilateral relations. Petulance must be avoided in the talks to be held in Brasilia, but they can be frank, loyal, open and free from resentments, as the talks between statesmen whose countries have such a strong propensity toward agreement should be. Only this way, in free and open talks, will Carter and Geisel be able to transform the U.S.-Brazilian relations into the beginnings of a new system of continental cooperation.

FINAL THREE CURITIBA DETAINEES RELEASED

PY271925Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL 27 Mar 78 p 6 PY

[Text] Journalists Luis Alberto Manfredini and Walmor Marcelino and labor lawyer Edesio Passos, who had been arrested in Curitiba, were released yesterday, thus completing the release of all 11 persons originally jailed. At the same time, a group of 35 private lawyers are requesting the creation of a congressional investigation committee to look into the reason for these imprisonments.

TWO MORE VICTIMS OF DEATH SQUAD ALLEGED

PY271750Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1425 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 27 Mar--The bullet-riddled bodies of two new victims of the death squad were found during the last 24 hours in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro, it was reported here today.

According to reports released by the local press, the victims showed signs of having been tortured before being killed. According to the Rio de Janeiro press, the number of victims mysteriously killed in Rio de Janeiro suburbs since 1 January 1978 totals 102.

EXILED BRAZILIAN LEADER COMMENTS ON CARTER VISIT

PA271618Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1501 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 27 Mar (AFP)--Leonel Brizzola, the exiled leader of the Brazilian Labor Party, expressed here today the hope that President Carter's imminent visit to Brazil "will have the significance of a democratic message." "I also understand that in the United States it is not the President who governs but the United States which governs the President," he added. Brazil, Brizzola said, hopes there will be an opening, a general amnesty, free elections, party activity and a reconstitutionalization of the country which will permit the return of thousands of Brazilians who are in exile.

MAGALHAES PINTO SAYS GEISEL DIVISIVE FACTOR

PY280135Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Jose de Magalhaes Pinto [National Renewal Alliance--ARENA--Minas Gerais State] today described the ARENA convention as a fraud on the code of ethics and national desires. He made the charges in a note he and his running mate, former Minister Severo Gomes, released today. The note was read today during the Senate's plenary session.

Megalhaes Pinto reaffirmed his decision to maintain his presidential candidacy by availing himself of all legal resources to sustain the civil rights and the desires of the Brazilian people. He added that both his candidacy and that of Severo Gomes were designed to mobilize the nation to strive for the establishment of a democratic regime.

Magalhaes said that he and his running mate refuse to participate in the ARENA convention because they believe that it will give only rubberstamp approval to an appointment made by the president of the republic. He said that although the ARENA convention is to be held from 8 to 9 April, it was already effectively over in view of the written statements obtained [from the delegates] through pressure. He said: Therefore, the delegates will attend the convention only to give formal approval, as they are already bound by their commitments. After noting that the president of the republic has become personally responsible for furthering division in the country, Magalhaes reiterated his intent to carry on his campaign.

Senator Eurico Rezende [ARENA--Espirito Santo State], ARENA leader in the Senate, took the floor to answer Magalhaes' charges. Rezende said that the lonely campaign he had to carry out must have led Magalhaes into stating that ARENA has violated the code of ethics. Rezende also rejected Magalhaes' charges that the president is personally responsible for furthering division in the country, and recalled the mission entrusted by the president to Senator Petronio Portella, that is, that of obtaining information for the country's political and institutional reform. Rezende said: Anyone acting in this manner is not dividing the country but, on the contrary, he is increasingly unifying the Brazilian nation.

As to Magalhaes' charge that ARENA delegates have already expressed their support for the candidate appointed by President Geisel, Rezende said that this is in keeping with a natural process. The very law governing political parties allows party members--without restrictions as to quantity or to individuals--to state their preferences.

Rezende states that the ARENA convention will reveal the positive, great and unshakable unity existing within ARENA, which represents the national majority. After expressing his surprise over Magalhaes' objection to the process of indirect election after having accepted the rules of the game, Rezende stated that the nation is united around the president and his official presidential candidate.

Senators Luiz Cavalcante [ARENA--Alagoas State] and Jarbas Passarinho [ARENA--Para State] expressed their disagreement with Magalhaes' charges.

Senator Francisco Leite Chaves [MDB--Parana State] stated that the speech made today marked a high point in Magalhaes Pinto's career as a congressman. Leite Chaves said that although Magalhaes Pinto had been neglected by his party, he has gained the MDB's respect and the support of more than 70 percent of the Brazilian people.

BRIEFS

NEW STATE GOVERNORS--President Geisel has proposed to the Senate the appointment of Harry Amorim Costa as the new governor of Mato Grosso do Sul State. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY]

OIL WELL UNPRODUCTIVE--PETROBRAS revealed yesterday that the oil well in Santos has no commercial value, thus confirming previous reports from the British Petroleum Company. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Mar 78 PY]

COURT ACQUITS MPL DEFENDANTS--The Permanent Council of the army's third judge advocate yesterday acquitted 18 persons who were charged with attempting to reorganize the Popular Liberation Movement. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Mar 78 p 16 PY]

FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT--During the first 2 months of this year, Brazil has accumulated a foreign trade deficit of $348 million, $178 million in January and $170 million in February. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1409 GMT 21 Mar 78 PY]

FRG STATE GOVERNOR'S VISIT--The governor of Baden-Wurtemburg Land in the FRG, Hans Filfinger, arrived in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, heading a delegation of 19 persons--economists, businessmen and commercial association presidents--to establish contacts in Brazil in order to intensify economic relations between the two countries. The visit of this delegation had been scheduled during President Geisel's visit to the FRG. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Mar 78 p 5 PY]

SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM--Experts state that the second shipbuilding program will require a total of $1 billion in foreign loans, that is, 65 percent more than what was originally estimated in 1975 when the program was approved. The reason for this increase stemmed from the reduction of national resources earmarked for the shipbuilding program, from the delay in the program timetable--which originally estimated that the program was to be completed in 1979, but which now estimates that the program will not conclude until 1982--and from the higher cost of imported products. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 33 PY]

COURT ORDERS NEW PROBE INTO OSORIO SUICIDE

PY280049Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0010 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar--The Court of Appeals ordered today that new investigations be conducted into the death of a key witness in the investigation of the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier. The court approved the recommendations made by Judge Rene Claverias, who stated that investigations into the suicide of Carlos Guillermo Osorio, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Department, showed many inconsistencies.

Osorio, who commiteed suicide under circumstances which have not been very well clarified, signed the approval for issuance of two Chilean official passports in the names of Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, Williams Rose and Romeral Jara are in reality two U.S. citizens residing in Chile, Michael Townley and Capt Armando Fernandez Larios.

According to the judicial request from the District of Columbia to the Chilean Government that the two men be called to testify, Townley and Fernandez Larios reportedly traveled to the United States with those passports in August 1976, a month before Letelier's death.

The Chilean Government reported that two other persons used those documents, but indicated that Captain Fernandez Larios was at the disposal of the judge in charge of this case and that efforts are being made to find Townley, who disappeared from his house 3 weeks ago.

LATIN EXAMINES ASPECTS OF LETELIER INVESTIGATION

PY272034Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1634 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar--The investigation being conducted here into the assassination of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier has created a delicate domestic political situation for President Augusto Pinochet.

The recent "voluntary" retirement of the chief of Chilean Secret Police from the time Letelier, who together with a U.S. citizen was killed in Washington when a bomb exploded in their car, in September 1976 is an event which is not very clear to most Chileans. Gen Manuel Contreras Sepulveda was one of Pinochet's closest collaborators and, according to regulations, the resignation, whose reasons were not disclosed, had to be accepted by the president, observers noted. Some consider this an indication of disagreement within the president's governing circle--one of the few since the armed forces overthrew Socialist President Salvador Allende on 11 September 1973.

Also during this week, Gen Gustavo Leigh, commander in chief of the air force and member of the government junta, delivered two speeches which posed questions regarding Chile's institutional future.

As a result of the Letelier case, some circles warned that the U.S. Department of State could apply some sort of diplomatic pressure for the case to be completely cleared up.

The resignation of General Contreras Sepulveda, who was relieved as director of the National Intelligence Department in October 1977 when the organization changed its name to the National Information Center, causes concern here because of the lack of official explanation. Many observers believe the moment in which it took place to be significant, that is, when the Letelier case proceedings were underway. The Chilean press reiterated that Contreras Sepulveda accompanied the official Guillermo Osorio to his house on 22 October 1977, the day he took his life.

After his retirement, the army's Public Relations Department denied press reports that Contreras was under house arrest. The army communique said, "Gen Manuel Contreras Sepulveda has complete liberty."

ARGENTINES ARRIVE FOR NEXT ROUND OF BEAGLE TALKS

FY280138Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2316 GMT 27 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar--The Argentine delegation of [Beagle Channel] commission No 1 arrived here today to begin a new round of negotiations with its Chilean counterpart tomorrow over the jurisdiction of the southern regions of the two countries. The delegation arrived at Pudahuel airport at 1715 local time (2115 GMT) and is headed by Maj Gen Pablo Apella and made up of Rear Adm Jorge Casas and Brig Gen Edgardo Nestor Calvi.

LEIGH REASSERTS NEED FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION

FY280306Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0152 GMT 28 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Valparaiso, Chile, 27 Mar--Gen Gustavo Leigh, member of the Chilean Government junta, reasserted in Valparaiso today "the urgent need to begin the institutionalization of political life in Chile." The air force commander in chief made this statement during a special lecture at the Santa Maria Technical University in Valparaiso, 140 km northwest of Santiago. He emphasized that this institutionalization must be implemented "on the basis of some essential concepts" such as the independence of the judicial branch and the right of all Chileans to determine their political future.

He admitted also that the following must be allowed: the existence of supervisory institutions [instituciones fiscalizadoras], the right to be informed and social protection, "and here we must include the policy of stimulating tasks in education study and research." He emphasized: "The action of the Chilean Government must be directed to promoting education." He immediately added that "the process for university reactivation must necessarily be approved within a constitutional framework, without limitations of a political nature."

Regarding research, he said that it is "our task to promote these activities and also to see that they develop within an institutional organization which guarantees freedom of research and assures appropriate financing."

STRIKE THREATENED IF LABOR-GOVERNMENT TALKS FAIL

PA272006Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The country's four labor centrals today (?reaffirmed) their decision to call a new general strike if the government fails to (?give) favorable [word indistinct] to [words indistinct] to President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen in December last year.

On the eve of the meeting [words indistinct] the National Trade Union Council--formed by the Union of Colombian workers [UTC], the Confederation of Colombian Workers [CTC], The Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombia [CSTC] and the General Confederation of Workers [CGT]--says that the talks with the government will deal exclusively with the list of demands in the hands of the chief executive.

CTC President Hector Hurtado [as heard] noted that the government will have to authorize the 50-percent across-the-board salary increase in order to end the serious situation affecting the workers. For his part, [name indistinct] of the (?CSTC) said that the country's social situation depends on the dialog with President Lopez. UTC President Julio Cuevas said that President Lopez will be asked to stop the alarming upward trend in prices which families must pay for food.

To conclude, CGT President Victor Baena said that one of the chief demands made to the government is related to the full relinquishment of the Social Security Service to the workers.

The National Trade Union Council said that there is full unity regarding the attitude to be assumed should the talks with the government fail.

POLICE CAPTURE THREE TERRORISTS, DYNAMITE

PA280218Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Secret police agents today captured three terrorists believed to have been the ones who placed an explosive charge at one of the emergency exits of the Anarco Theater. At the time of their arrest, they had in their possession three sticks of dynamite and fuses. The terrorists were identified by the police as Victor Melo, Francisco Mera and Jairo Uribe.

In the meantime, F-2 and Administrative Department of Security agents, as well as army soldiers, continue patrolling the city's main streets to prevent acts of terrorism.

TERRORIST ACTS STAGED IN BOGOTA, POPAYAN

PA272357Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--A new terrorist outburst attributed to the self-styled Popular Liberation Army [EPL] has taken place in the last few hours in Bogota and Popayan.

This morning, an urban guerrilla group attacked the home of a public official in northern Bogota, with hand grenades causing serious damages. Meanwhile, in Popayan, the police were able to deactivate four bombs of average power which had been placed a few blocks away from the municipal [word indistinct].

The terrorist actions were attributed to the EPL's Pedro Leon Arboleda guerrilla group.

APPOINTMENT OF LOBATO AS TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT EXPECTED

PA280350Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] It was virtually confirmed this afternoon that Juan Issac Lobato will be the new president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The rumor, which had been circulating for the past few days, gained strength today when it was learned that Lobato had resigned from his position as legal adviser to the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation--CEPE. Lobato was a member of the Referendum Tribunal and he is one of the three members of the organization who have agreed to continue to serve. The other two members are Benjamin Carrion and Ramiro Gallegos. In a recorded interview by Radio Quito, Lobato said that all of the members who make up an entity such as the Supreme Electoral Tribunal have the possibility and capability to be its president. When asked why he resigned from his job at CEPE, he replied:

[begin Lobato recording] Because if I remain in the Supreme Electoral Tribunal I would not want situations such as those mentioned in Article 3 to arise even if they were without basis in fact. Second, the duties that must be carried out in the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, at least at the beginning and by that I mean, for many days, will not allow sufficient time to properly work at two jobs at the same time. [end recording]

CFP REJECTS POLL FAVORING GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE

PA271913Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] In Guayaquil the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] has reacted violently to a survey carried out by economist Ernesto Arroba Salvador which indicated that the presidential candidates with the greatest support are architect Sixto Duran Ballen and Dr Francisco Huerta Montalvo, while the CFP's candidate, Jaime Roldos Aguilera, is in third place. A communique issued by the CFP and signed by the party's Secretary General Luis (Navega) Grave states that Arroba, an economist who is described as one of the great beneficiaries of the 11-million-sucre contract publicly negotiated between Arroba's employer, Francisco Huerta Montalvo, and the military dictatorship, is trying to make us swallow for our holy week communion the thick wafer of a survey in which a single grain of truth, concerning the beliefs of a few, is used in an attempt to deceive the Ecuadorean people. The CFP communique adds that Arroba is an employee of Desarrollo, a plutocratic company managed by Huerta Montalvo which has served the latter in making profitable deals and is now partially financing his campaign as well as filling the stomachs and the pockets of his supporters who, like the economist Arroba, consider it their unavoidable duty to respond to these favors by providing surveys in which Arroba gives the first two places in public support to the candidates of the dictatorship, that is, Duran Ballen and Huerta Montalvo.

PAPER CLAIMS ELECTIONS LAW WILL BE AMENDED

PA280316Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] According to the newspaper EL GUAYAQUILENO, the existing elections law will be substantially amended to postpone the presidential and regional elections to October, instead of holding them in July as had already been established. In addition to this amendment, which will undoubtedly cause an uproar in political circles and among some skeptics, another amendment would be introduced which would have great impact and repercussions. It would eliminate runoff elections, thus, the candidates who obtain a simple majority in the first and only election, would become president and vice president. If the elections law is amended as the paper asserts, many candidates who expect to join forces with the majority candidate in the runoff elections would see their hopes vanish.

SUBVERSIVE SUSPECT LEAVES FOR COLOMBIA

PY251422Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 22 Mar 78 p 12 PY

[Summary] Alberto Montezuma Hurtado, Colombian ambassador to this country, has told HOY: "Thanks to the good will of the Paraguayan Government and particularly the interior minister, we have obtained a safe-conduct for this young lady, so she can travel."

This paper interviewed Maria de Jesus Caballero Legal at the Asuncion Airport last night. She has been sought by the police for 2 months, accused of being an agent of subversive crime.

She stated: "I belong to the Febrerista Revolutionary Party and I have never had any contact with guerrilla activities." She also said that she intended to take up permanent residence in Colombia.

The interview took place while she and the Colombian ambassador awaited the arrival of the Braniff plane which was to take Maria de Jesus to Bogota. She concluded by saying that she had sought asylum at the Colombian Embassy after police raided her home.

BRIEFS

NEW FM STATION--Radio Itapiru of Puerto President Stroessner will begin broadcasting on FM wavelengths at the end of the month. Its call sign will be ZPV-26 Radio Itapiru and will broadcast on 96 megahertz with a 2.5 kilowatt output. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Mar 78 p 54 PY]

GOVERNMENT PREPARING NEW ECONOMIC AUSTERITY PLAN

PA271426Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1239 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Mar (AFP)--Authorized sources reported today that the Peruvian military government is preparing a national plan involving greater austerity in response to the serious economic-financial crisis affecting the country. The new program, which will be announced in April, is being drafted at a time when the IMF has broken a standby agreement with Peru for 1 million [currency not specified] in special drawing rights after concluding that Peru "is not eligible" for new loans.

The IMF decision led a group of banks from industrialized countries, including Morgan, Citibank, Wells Fargo and Manufacturers Hanover, to decide against granting the Peruvian Government an almost guaranteed loan of $260 million. Peru urgently needs those funds to meet its foreign debt service payments which, including amortization and interests, total $900 million this year, that is, one-half of the revenue resulting from all the country's exports.

Moreover, in other areas domestic inflation and recession threaten to cause the bankruptcy of national enterprises, jeopardize the effort to return to a constitutional regime and aggravate labor problems. It is also rumored that private and government commercial [as received] banks in Peru are already $60 million behind in the payment of their foreign debt.

Although isolated voices have called for Peru to declare a stoppage of payments, as it did in 1931, it is said that the military government has totally ruled out this option. President Francisco Morales Bermudez, who is handling the financial situation, said some days ago that his efforts are directed toward restructuring the foreign debt, which totals some $4.2 billion, because 50 percent of it falls due between now and 1980. At the same time that domestic economic and financial measures are being studied, the government has resumed negotiations with the IMF, whose mission is no longer headed by Linda Koening, but by Jan van Hooten, since Koening was reportedly declared persona non grata by the chief of state.

The executive will grant various incentives to private investment, convert various government enterprises into private companies and stimulate exports, but it will also adopt measures that were reportedly recommended by the IMF as absolutely necessary conditions before Peru could obtain the annulled standby loan. These last measures apparently include a drastic reduction of the large budget deficit, the creation of new taxes and the elimination of subsidies to oils, milk and wheat. In addition, an increase in the price of hydrocarbons and the elimination of incentives to nontraditional exports are foreseen. According to exporters, the incentives to nontraditional exports consisted of a rebate from domestic taxes for exported manufactured products, which averaged 22 percent of the value of the products sold. The Association of Exporters expressed opposition to the elimination of this incentive on the grounds that it will reduce income and worsen the present crisis.

Finally, it is said that the new plan includes a new devaluation of the sol, which is currently listed at 130 soles per dollar, but it is not known whether the government will establish a new parity of 150 per dollar, for example, or whether it will reestablish the policy of minidevaluations. According to experts, the banks consider the present rate of exchange to be harmful to the economy, but the Economic Ministry has asked them to maintain this level pending further official orders.

EREZ COMMENTS ON CARTER VISIT, CANAL TREATIES

PA2717547 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez held a press conference with foreign newsmen in Miraflores Palace on the occasion of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to Venezuela which begins on Tuesday. The Venezuelan chief of state expressed his optimism that the new Panama Canal treaties will set the basis for a new relationship between the United States and Latin America.

Regarding Nicaragua, he voiced some concern about the human rights situation in that country. Continuing, the Venezuelan president said that the situation in Nicaragua tests the position of the United States and Venezuela regarding human rights. The Venezuelan chief of state said that an end must be brought to actions in the hemisphere which constitute a shameful offense to the dignity of human beings and which threaten the liberty of men and women.

POLITICAL LEADERS REACT TO CARTER'S VISIT

PA271606Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1443 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 27 Mar (AFP)--Venezuelan political leaders concurred here today in describing President Jimmy Carter's visit, scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, as positive, but some of them expressed reservations.

David Morales Bello, of the ruling Democratic Action Party, stressed the coincidence between President Carter's foreign policy and the position of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who demands equitable and just treatment for developing countries such as Venezuela. "It is to be hoped," he said, "that once President Carter sees our reality he will be encouraged to continue in his country a policy of true social projections [as received] beyond the U.S. borders."

Hilarion Cardozo, of the Christian Democratic Party, the country's leading opposition party, viewed Carter's visit "with sympathy" but warned that neither the government nor AD should take advantage of Carter's visit for electoral propaganda purposes. His statement stems from the fact that the campaign to elect a new president, vice president and congress in Venezuela in December 1978 will open on 1 April.

Freddy Munoz, of the Marxist Movement to Socialism (MAS), said that Venezuela must insist on the promotion of human rights and demand the elimination of the anti-OPEC clause in the U.S. preferential tariff system. The clause excludes OPEC member countries from the U.S. preferential trade system.

Moises Moleiro, of the Marxist Movement of the Revolutionary Left, asked that the opportunity be taken to review "the so-called Rio de Janeiro Treaty, whereby our country is tied to U.S. military solutions and plans.

ARMY CHIEF REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY

PA271916Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Coups d'etat in Venezuela belong to the Charleston era and are a thing of the past. This was stated by army Commander in Chief Gen Ernesto Brandt Torrellas in regard to the position of the military concerning democracy.

The general said that the army is convinced that the democratic system is the only one which guarantees the happiness of Venezuelans. General Brandt Torrellas said that the army is deeply convinced of this. He noted that every Venezuelan should join in the country's development. He added that the army is dutybound to defend the 20 years of democratic life in the country.

BRIEFS

ALUMINUM PRODUCTION--Caracas, 22 Mar (VENPRESS)--Oscar Martinez, general director of VENALUM and METALMEC corporations, branches of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana, has disclosed that Venezuela will have the capacity to produce 400,000 tons of primary aluminum by 1980, which is enough for local demand and for export. Martinez reported that aluminum production in 1977 was 45,000 metric tons of which 30,000 were sold in the local market and 15,000 were exported. In 1978, when production should be 400,000 tons, 20,000 will be exported to countries of the Caribbean and Andean subregions. The remaining 280,000 tons for export will be distributed between the United States and Japan through contracts guaranteeing Venezuelan products steady sales for 10 years, Martinez noted. [Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1351 GMT 23 Mar 78 PA]

ARMY PATROLS CIUDAD MANTE AFTER DISTURBANCES

PA251326Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1215 GMT 25 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 24 Mar (EFE)--Army troops are patrolling this northern Mexican city today in anticipation of disturbances in the wake of last night's death of a local political leader. The authorities in Ciudad Mante asked the army to intervene when violence broke out after the death of Vicente Infante, regional secretary of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolutiona (PARM, a progovernment opposition party). It seems that the late political leader's relatives want to stage demonstrations and hold rallies to protest his death.

Even though it was initially reported that former local police commander Alfonso Mendez shot the politican, authorities note that so far they do not know what really happened. Mendez, who belongs to a group that is opposed to the PARM, was involved in the disturbances that took place in this city last January when opposition groups, notably PARM, criticized the victory of the official candidate for mayor. The candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI, in power in Mexico for 45 years) finally took office as mayor.

The authorities in Ciudad Mante, a town located about 760 km northeast of the Mexican capital, termed the situation "tense," which is why they have asked the army to intervene.

CLEANUP CAMPAIGN AFFECTS THOUSANDS OF POLICEMEN

PA241310Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Mar 78 PA

[Text] In the past 10 months, 32,200 policemen from the federal district have been discharged [dar de baja] or reassigned [concignados] according to Gen Arturo (Durango) Moreno, director of police and traffic of the federal district. These actions were taken as part of the cleanup campaign conducted within the police department of Mexico City.

NEGOTIATOR, AMBASSADOR LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON

PA280101Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Education Minister Aristides Royo left yesterday for Washington together with Panamanian Ambassador to the United States Gabriel Lewis Galindo. No official source has disclosed the reasons for the departure of minister and negotiator Royo for Washington, but it is believed that his trip is related to the Senate debate on the Panama Canal treaty. It was also not disclosed if Dr Royo is carrying any special message from the Panamanian Government to U.S. authorities.

BAYANO SEES TREATY AMENDMENTS AS DELIBERATE PROVOCATION

PA241428Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 78 PA

[Text] BAYANO, an organ at the service of Panamanian workers, has stated in its editorial that the incorporation of reservations, understandings and amendments into the treaty on the neutrality of the canal and the functioning of the waterway is a political maneuver designed to produce an unsettled situation within Panamanian society.

The newspaper, which is published biweekly, later states that by means of the attitude adopted by the U.S. Senate, the Carter administration is skirting its historic responsibility by transferring the problem to the national government, particularly to its top leader, General Torrijos.

In his letter to the U.S. President on 15 March, our chief of government said that no amendment or reservation that harms the truly just aspirations of the Panamanian people will be accepted. The biweekly BAYANO emphasizes that U.S. Government circles have directed the first amendments and reservations toward the issue that is most sensitive where the Panamanian nation is concerned--the nation's right to the sovereign and independent exercise of effective neutrality, without intervention or foreign military aggression--in other words, to make the Panamanian liberating process react to the provocation.

The BAYANO editorail emphasizes the people's devotion to peace and to the construction of a future without the wounds of a bloody struggle for liberation. However, in the face of an attempt to keep the aggressive imperialist boot on their soil eternally, our people will be prepared to take action, whatever the consequences, in order to achieve total independence, BAYANO says in closing.

MATUTINO NOTES 'DESPERATION' OF SENATE TREATY OPPONENTS

PA272215Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Mar 78 p 4-A PA

[Editorial: "To Every Extreme"]

[Text] The small group of U.S. senators who methodically oppose ratification of the treaties with Panama are acting out of desperation.

Every recourse which could be used in the course of the debates has been brought forward. The zigzagging tactics by which the parliamentary system can be used to delay the debates almost indefinitely have also been used. They have resorted to lies, threats, mass propaganda, provocation of an entire people, a show of disrespect for the president of their own country, the presentation of false documents and the citing of other nonexistent documents.

They have done a little of everything. It would seem that there was nothing more they could do, especially since none of their tricks did them any good at the moment of truth, when the votes of the supporters of the treaties defeated them in the first skirmish--the final voting on the neutrality treaty.

However, now it has been demonstrated that the bag of dirty tricks of some of the opponents of the treaties is inexhaustible. This is demonstrated by the news that in some states of the union movements have begun to "demand" the expulsion of senators who voted in favor of the neutrality treaty.

As was to be expected, the directors of these orchestrated movements have hastened to deny that they have anything to do with the movements. They think the world is naive enough to believe that these movements bloomed like "wildflowers," with no one having planted them or worried about pruning them, in each of the states in which they have appeared.

Not even an immediate pronouncement by legal experts to the effect that such an action would be completely unconstitutional has been able to halt the actions, born of insanity, of the recalcitrant senators who have sown that absurd seed among the U.S. public.

They are persistent. They have even dared to insinuate that the U.S. Constitution should be amended immediately to give popular groups the authority to act on their own to revoke Senate seats or the mandate of some of their senators.

What will surely stop them is the realization that the weapon which they are using against the supporters of the Torrijos-Carter treaties may backfire and be turned against treaty opponents. This is so because upon finding themselves threatened the senators who voted for ratification and who are in the majority could proceed in simple self-defense to decree the immediate expulsion of the 32 senators who are today seeking to decapitate the majority senators by means of streetcorner ballyhoo.

If they act in this way, the seantors who are in the majority would at least be employing a recourse of the U.S. Constitution which is presently in effect without resorting to the scandalously absurd tactic advocated by those who want to destroy the constitution right now, immediately.

The world is looking at them. And that same world, which is no longer shocked by anything, would not be surprised if these senators in question were to advise their respective states to declare "independence," a "holy war," or a "new Vietnam" within the United States, all this to prevent ratification of that treaty which leaves them sleepless, disquieted and mentally distrubed.

COLUMNIST EQUATES SENATE CANAL TREATY CHANGES WITH REJECTION

PA272240Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Mar 78 p 4 PA

["Bona Fide" column by Camilo O. Perez: "Amendments to Amendments and so on Until the End of Time"]

[Text] We have read in the front page of yesterday's issue of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA a paid advertisement consisting of a translation of a quotation from TIME magazine's latest issue. It deals with President Carter's change of attitude in the face of pressures from some senators, including Mr DeConcini.

In spite of the commitment between President Carter and General Torrijos regarding a "certain pledged word," the powerful U.S. political and monopolistic forces have prevailed over this "pledged word."

Our position in this connection is characterized by calm study and a cautious wait-and-see attitude. This is so because, as we have repeatedly said, this is a problem of U.S. politicians and not of Panamanians. However, we would not be surprised if things changed in the future and Washington decided to pass on to Panama the responsibility for rejection.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we feel that the first treaty has already been rejected by the U.S. Senate. Thus, the waiting in regard to the other treaty, that is, the treaty concerning the Panama Canal, involves only a matter of procedure to formalize the rejection.

Mr Carter faces a serious political problem that will lead to decisions which will for the first time bring to the surface the crisis which has existed for decades in the relationship between Congress and the Executive branch.

Furthermore, once the treaties and the declarations containing the reservations and amendments are returned, we Panamanians will face the possibility mentioned above, which TIME has mentioned in order to attack Carter.

We have begun a study of history and found that there is a particular precedent justifying what the Senate is now doing. In other words, when the Thompson-Urrutia treaty was negotiated, the U.S. Senate returned it with certain amendments after discussing it, feeling that it had approved the treaty in that manner. It was then that the Colombian Government, in view of that fact, returned the treaty to the U.S. Government with its own observations and amendments to the proposed amendments. This forced the Senate to discuss the matter again. The rest is history.

In this case, after the treaties reach Panama with all of the detailed observations, we will have to analyze the cited precedent in order to keep the responsibility for the crisis from being passed on to the Panamanian people.

This is so because if violence arises as the only possible argument to achieve our patriotic demands, let the first shot be fired there and not here. That is the way the Vietnamese acted.

COMMENTATOR EXPECTS PUBLIC DEBATE ON TREATY CHANGES

PA280230Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

["Analysis of the News" commentary by Mario Velasquez]

[Text] Following the holy week break, which the Panamanians take advantage of to escape from reality a little, by vacationing in the country's interior and participation in religious celebrations, the country returns to normalcy and to its daily cares.

We notice with satisfaction that the week begins with the official public announcement by the Foreign Ministry of the amendments, reservations, and understandings which the U.S. Senate introduced to the resolution of ratification of the Treaty on the Permanent Neutrality of the Canal and the Operation of the Panama Canal.

The public announcement of these important documents is accompanied by a Foreign Ministry communique which reiterates the government stand announced in its previous communique of 16 March to the effect that it will not make any pronouncement on what the Senate had agreed to in relation to the neutrality treaty until the Senate has decided on the Panama Canal treaty, on which it will probably vote in late April.

I feel that both Foreign Ministry communiques--the one dated 16 March and the one of this morning--display a clear sense of responsibility in handling a very delicate issue. It is a sensible and patriotic thing for the government to make a very serious evaluation and a thorough study of these amendments, reservations and understandings prior to taking a decision which, due to the nature and dimension of the problem, will be a most important one. Likewise, the public announcement of these documents and the recommendations included in the last paragraph of the communique published this morning, which asked Panamanians to study the documents published in order to help the government make the most patriotic decision, is an invitation to a public debate on these amendments, reservations and debates. This is the only possible means by which the community will be able to discuss the scope of these amendments and make public its opinion, and in this manner the government will have sufficient data to permit it to make a decision within the framework of a great national consensus, as this morning's Foreign Ministry communique said:

Actually, the Foreign Ministry communique which we are commenting on is in the spirit of the letter which Gen Omar Torrijos sent President Carter on 15 March. In fact, in this letter Torrijos told the U.S. President that the Panamanian Government will begin the careful study of these reservations and will announce its position once the Senate has completed the voting on both treaties. Then, in a strong worded paragraph which is a reiteration of a political decision and which really voices the unanimous feeling of the Panamanians, Torrijos told Carter that such a study will be based on the following concepts: Panama will not accept any reservation which offends national dignity, which distorts or changes the objectives of the treaty or which is aimed at impeding the effective exercise of the sovereignty of Panama over all of its territory, the turnover of the canal, and the end of military occupation on 31 December 1999. Torrijos then added in the same letter sent to President Carter that the Panamanian people will not accept any words, misplaced commas, or ambiguous phrases which are aimed at or mean an occupation in perpetuity disguised as neutrality or an intervention in Panama's domestic affairs.

It seems very clear that these paragraphs we have quoted define the national position shared by all conscientious Panamanians. In the light of these concepts, Torrijos is transmitting to Carter the manner in which the amendments, reservations and understanding which the Senate will add to the two Panama Canal treaties will be studied. In other words, Torrijos has established parameters, points of reference for the studies to be made of the amendments. This is not a matter of legal speculation or intellectual loopholes, but very clear and precise terms of consideration which pertain to our national dignity and sovereignty. The serious part, the obscure part of this issue is found in the U.S. counterpart, where a series of situations and interests, visible and complex, are having a negative influence on the handling of the problem of the ratification of the treaties.

If there is any doubt in this respect, the Panamanians should at this stage of our relations with the United States be convinced that U.S. national interests prevail in these relations and that there has never been anything which we could call generosity or altruism in Washington's policy toward our country.

As for the senators, a large majority of them are immersed in the political problems of their states, in their reelection possibilities, and concerned solely about what they call the national security interests of the United States. We witnessed the 7-hour U.S. Senate debate on Thursday, 16 March, when the neutrality treaty was approved. Together with Luz Maria Noli [Televisora Nacional reporter], we were the only Panamanians inside the U.S. Senate during those dramatic hours. We lived that historical moment and were not able to notice at any time any moment of grandeur or a sense of history on the part of the dozens of speakers who came up, one after another, to reiterate their concern over the military, economic, and political interests of the empire, totally removed from and indifferent to the interests of a samll republic which has lived for 75 years tied down to the fate of the U.S. nation.

Nothing reflects the spirit of the Senate better than the conversation between President Jimmy Carter and Republican Senator Edward Brooke, when the only black senator told Carter that he was creating a sort of Frankenstein by not permitting changes. Carter told him that he had given his word to Torrijos and he could not back down. Senator Brooke then answered him: Look, that is the Panamanians' problem; that is not our problem. The report on this conversation is carried in today's issue of the TIME magazine, dated 27 March. The report adds that the Senate leaders then convinced President Carter to back down, and subsequently negotiations began with Nunn, Talmadge, DeConcini and other senators who insisted on amendments.

And this concludes our analysis for today. Tomorrow, we will continue with more on the same subject.

IRREGULARITIES IN CANDIDATE REGISTRATIONS DENOUNCED

PA280115Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Mar 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Irregularities in the Registration of Candidates"]

[Text] The country is surprised by the growing wave of complaints related to irregularities being committed in the registration of candidates for corregimiento representatives.

In spite of the fact that the Electoral Tribunal, in a highly patriotic effort, has widely distributed texts on the electoral laws in all the provinces, it looks like very few people have paid any attention to them and many precandidates are eluding existing regulations, judging by the large number of complaints being lodged at the electoral director's office and the continuous protests being sent to news media.

There are even corregimientos where letters and signed statements have been sent to Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos asking for his personal intervention in each case.

Much has been said about political parties' corrupt practices prior to 1968, but the fact is that in matters of violating electoral laws things are the same today as they used to be, only now these practices are carried out with greater skill, impudence and innate craftiness, thus making legal dispositions, in effect, mere words.

But it is not just a case of complaints and protests. It seems that the country is mature enough to put things in order and to maintain clean elections as one of the foundations of our institutional system.

For this reason the electoral director's office should not hesitate in applying the proper sanctions and set a precedent to insure that the registration of candidates is carried out properly and those officially nominated are worthy of the people's trust. A candidate for corregimiento representative has to be an honorable and law abiding citizen of good moral character so that the community can support and respect him as a leader and adviser. Those who trade with the people's conscience, professional liars or those whose candidacy was obtained through the violation of electoral laws do not deserve the people's votes. This class of individual is harming the Panamanian revolution and is definitely contributing to its loss of prestige. Thus the people will say: "How bad things must be in the country when so and so is a candidate for corregimiento representative."

We recognize that the Electoral Tribunal is being run by patriotic and righteous magistrates who are constantly expressing their wish to have an electoral process characterized by its democratic purity based on existing laws. We expect those who are violating electoral laws to be severely punished so that people in each corregimiento can vote in the August 1978 elections for the most worthy citizens.

It must also be a goal of the Panamanian revolution to put an end to electoral frauds.

JOURNALIST REGULATION BILL PRESENTED TO UNIONS

PA280245Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] A bill for regulating the journalism profession in the Republic of Panama was presented to the Newsmen's Union General Secretariat this afternoon. The bill, which includes newly added amendments, will also be presented to other press unions and associations in the country.

The announcement was made by Legislative Commission Coordinator Marcelino Jaen. The bill, Jaen said, has been amply discussed with all interested sectors. The Newsmen's Union requested that for the best interests of the people, the bill should also be debated by other unions and by the legislative commission.

Since the last meeting, on 2 March, only a few changes and amendments have been made to the bill, especially Chapter 4, which is completely new and refers to sanctions against anyone who engaged in journalism without legal authorization. The amendments also mention some changes in the chapter referring to the rights and duties of newsmen.

Regarding the application of sanctions, the bill says that whoever engaged in journalism without legal authorization will be fined from 100 to 500 balboas for the first offense. The fine will be doubled each time the offense is repeated.

BRIEFS

BANANA PRODUCTION--An official source has reported that Panama's banana production in 1977 was approximately the same as in 1976. In 1977 strong winds affected 25 percent of the output of the plantations of the Pacific Banana Corporation, 20 percent of the output of the plantations owned by the Chiriqui Land Company on the Atlantic coast and 35 percent of the output of the Atlantic Banana Corporation's plantations, according to the same source. The spokesman said that state-owned banana corporations increased their participation in production activities from 5.6 percent in 1976 to 7.6 percent in 1977. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Mar 78 PA]

COSTA RICA

UNION ASKS FOR NONPOLITICAL MAY DAY CELEBRATION

PA271630Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Costa Rican Labor Central insists that no political party flags be carried in the Labor Day parades. The secretary general of the central said this labor organization agreed to join all the other confederations to jointly celebrate Labor Day but noted: What we do not want, and have so informed the other organizations, is for political flags or slogans to be carried in the workers march.

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE MINISTRY BLAMES PEASANT UNIONS FOR KILLINGS

PA280200Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2224 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 27 Mar (LATIN)--Apprxomately 2,000 armed peasants took up positions today in Tecoluca, La Esperanza and El Rodeo cantons, which were the scene of tragic incidents in which eight persons were killed yesterday. The Defense Ministry said today that the security corps has occupied strategic positions to prevent new incidents similar to those which occurred Saturday night and S unday morning, when seven peasants were shot, stabbed or clubbed to death and their bodies abandoned on the side of the road between El Rodeo and Tecoluca, San Pedro Perulapan, 26 km from here. Another peasant of the many wounded died later in Rosales Hospital in San Salvador.

The Defense Ministry blamed the incidents on members of the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation, the Farm Workers Union and the Poular Revolutionary Bloc.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS PRICE HINDERING BELIZE ACCORD

PA271905Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1833 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes today accused Belizean Premier Price of hindering the search for a peaceful solution to the Anglo-Guatemalan differences over Belize. Molina Orantes criticized Price's attempts to form a multinational military force to back his aims of attaining independence for Belize and termed it as "a challenge to Guatemala's sovereignty." The foreign minister added that the Belizean premier's efforts to put together an army to back Belize's independence with the assistance of former British colonies in the Caribbean "jeopardizes this country's negotiations with London for a peaceful and negotiated settlement on the future of the neighboring territory.

The Guatemalan foreign minister revealed that Price has assumed an intransigent attitude which may spoil the talks being held between Guatemala and London. The two countries have made considerable progress in the past months. Molina Orantes recalled that in these negotiations formulas have been explored which might be adopted to put "a peaceful and honorable" end to the 150-year controversy over Belize.

On the other hand, the official termed as "intervention and unacceptable" the actions of a group of former British colonies in the Caribbean that are participating in the possible formation of a multinational military force to back Belize's independence. He noted that Belize is the object of negotiations between the two parties involved, Guatemala and Great Britain, and that the interference of third parties is unacceptable.

PRESIDENT-ELECT SELECTS GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

PA272343Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2022 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--It was learned here today that Guatemalan President-elect Gen Romeo Lucas has concluded forming his future cabinet. Lucas will take office on 1 July, replacing Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia. Immediately afterward Lucas will swear in his cabinet.

Francisco Villagran Kramer, a university professor and internationalist, will take office as vice president to replace anticommunist leader Mario Sandoval Alarcon, director of the National Liberation Movement.

According to sources close to Lucas, the new foreign minister will be Rafael Castilo Valdez, currently president of Congress and former ambassador to the United Nations.

The new finance minister will be Gert Rosenthal, current expert of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) with headquarters in Mexico. Jorge Garcia Granados, secretary general of the Revolutionary Party (PR), will be the new economy minister.

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, secretary general of the Democratic Institutional Party (PID), will continue to be government minister. Gen Otto Spiegler will continue to head the National Defense Ministry in accordance with a rotation agreement within the army leadership.

The new education minister will be Edmundo Vasquez Martinez, former rector of the National University of San Carlos. Edgar Ponciano Castillo, an agronomy engineer and farmer, will be the new agriculture minister.

Dr Roquelino Recinos will be the future public health minister and Ricardo Mendez Ruiz will be the new communications and public works minister. Carlos Alarcon Monsanto, a former university student leader, will be the new labor minister. Newsman Carlos Toledo Vielman will be the new information secretary of the presidency.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT SOURCE SAYS SOMOZA IN U.S.

PA271619Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1504 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua President Anastasio Somoza is in the United States, an official source confirmed today in this capital. General Somoza left Saturday morning for the United States aboard the presidential jet "Nicarao" to attend to "state affairs and personal matters."

Rafael Oliberio Cano, Nicaraguan secretary of press and information, announced that President Somoza will return to Nicaragua "before the end of this week."

Somoza has not visited the United States since last July when he was hospitalized in the Miami heart institute.

U.S. CITIZEN KIDNAPED IN CHINANDEGA, HELD FOR RANSOM

PA271650Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Margine Paine de Deshon, 55 years old, of U.S. origin, was kidnaped yesterday in Chinandega by a group of unidentified persons who forced her to get into her car at gunpoint. They left for an unknown destination. According to unconfirmed reports, 200,000 cordobas have been asked as ransom.

Ransom Demand Issued

PA280235Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0056 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The three men who violently kidnaped U.S. citizen Margine Paine de Deshon at the Chinandega Cemetery yesterday, Sunday, are demanding a ransom of 500,000 cordobas, equivalent to $71,428. The ransom demand was made through the widow's driver, Tomas Molina Leiva, who was kidnaped together with her but released today on the highway leading to the northern and western part of the country.

The newspaper LA PRENSA reported the information today, adding that the kidnaped U.S. widow from Pennsylvania sent a message with her driver asking for medicine because she is not well. However, there is no information on how the kidnapers will establish contact.

Meanwhile, military forces from the Chinandega command are combing a vast area of the department with the same name and Leon Department as well in search of the kidnapers.

Chinandega command officers denied again the veracity of the newspaper reports of the kidnaping and the amount of the ransom demanded for the release of Mrs Paine de Deshon, promising concrete facts on the case by tomorrow.

QUINTANA SPEAKS ON ASYLUM, CRITICIZES VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT

PA272354Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2132 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--University student Lidia Astorga, sister of Dr Nora Astorga de Jenkins, is among the seven Nicaraguans seeking asylum at the Mexican Embassy in Managua. On 10 March Brig Gen Reinaldo Perez Vega was killed by a guerrilla cell at the home of Nora Astorga de Jenkins.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana hosted a news conference today and discussed national issues. He confirmed the report on the seven persons seeking asylum. The Nicaraguan foreign minister also said that six others are at the Venezuelan Embassy while four are at the Costa Rican Embassy. Three persons seeking asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy and one at the Panamanian Embassy left before Easter.

The official added that "state organizations are currently conducting investigations to determine if any of these persons are terrorists, members of the 'Sandinist front,' or refugees, since some of these might be common criminals, for whom there is no diplomatic asylum." However, Quintana said that President Anastasio Somoza's government plans to define the status of each one of these individuals this week and that those who are eligible will receive their safe-conducts for traveling to the country of their choice as soon as possible.

Denies Charge of Reprisal

PA272317Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2014 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government maintained today that its granting of diplomatic asylum to Venezuelan newsman Jorge Olavarria, director of the weekly RESUMEN, was not done "in reprisal" but "according to established diplomatic practice." Today, Monday, at a news conference, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Quintana commented on international news reports that described the granting of diplomatic asylum to newsman Olavarria as a "reprisal." The foreign minister gave the reasons for the Nicaraguan Government's granting of asylum to newsman Olavarria. Quintana repeatedly described him as a victim of "political persecution."

The foreign minister said that when Olavarria arrived at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Caracas, he declared in a document that he "was under political persecution and afraid of being murdered." Quintana said that after 4 days of negotiations, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi had accepted the definition of political asylum as proposed by the Nicaraguan Government and had agreed to give Olavarria the proper guarantees to leave Venezuela and fly to Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister said that the Venezuelan Government had granted "guarantees, more ample than a safe-conduct," to transfer Olavarria, "a prominent politician," who had been a congressman and ambassador to England during former President Caldera's administration.

He also said that Herman Hooker, Nicaraguan charge d'affaires in Venezuela, together with another ambassador accredited to Carlos Andres Perez' government, had accompanies Olavarria to the Caracas International Airport to forestall any incident and to give the exile all the privileges established in the diplomatic asylum convention.

Olavarria arrived in Managua at the beginning of last week and from there had apparently flown to the United States. At the time that Olvarria requested asylum, an arrest warrant had been issued against him as a result of misappropriation charges placed against him by his former wife.

Comments on Sharington Status

PA280142Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0109 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government expects an official decision from the U.S. Embassy here tomorrow concerning the asylum granted by the embassy to U.S. citizen Arthur Sharington 5 days ago. Sharington, former industrial partner of President Anastasio Somoza, had been in jail for the past 10 months and had recently been moved to the military hospital in Managua to recover from an illness which could not be treated in prison.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana said in a news conference today that, "as you can see, it is a common criminal case. It is a normal case under the jurisdiction of the judicial branch, which is independent in Nicaragua. In the courts every door is open for appeals. Quintana emphasized that the U.S. Embassy must realize that this is a common criminal case, "with the aggravating additional crime of flight and a mockery of the national authorities." Minister Quintana admitted that this is a case of differences of opinions with the embassy of a friendly country. He said that this case requires special attention. He added, however, that Sharington's status according to Nicaraguan justice "prevents us from authorizing his departure."

GRANMA HAILS ANNIVERSARY OF ANGOLAN VICTORY

PA271807Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The newspaper GRANMA, official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, today highlights the second anniversary of the Angolan people's victory over the South African troops which, in complicity with the imperialists, invaded that African country in an effort to prevent it from achieving true independence. The paper states that, regardless of how much it bothers the imperialists, the international reactionaries and the racist regime in Pretoria, a mere 2 years after that vile aggression Angola is resolutely advancing along the socialist path and has made important achievements in the economic, education, public health and defense fields and in raising the ideological and political consciousness of the masses.

The PCC organ adds that the example of Angola has been, during these years, a basic stimulus for the liberation struggles of the still-enslaved peoples in the southern cone of Africa.

Finally, GRANMA notes that both during the aggression against Angola and more recently, in the case of Ethiopia, the peoples of the two countries required the solidarity and the internationalist aid of Cuba, the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community.

GARCIA OLIVERA SPEAKS AT SRI LANKAN PARTY CONGRESS

FL241856Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Colombo--PCC Central Committee member Julio Garcia Olivera pointed out today the important role being played by the USSR and the socialist community in restraining imperialist aggression. The Cuban gave a talk on the third day of the 10th Sri Lanka Communist Party Congress which began on Wednesday in Colombo.

In his greeting message at the SRI Lanka communists' meeting, Garcia Olivera spoke about the current situation on the African Continent, which has become an area of strategic interest to imperialism. The Cuban leader referred to the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia and stated that in this case imperialism has used a territorial dispute left over from colonialism and chauvinistic attitudes of the governing rightist Somali faction to instigate military aggression against Ethiopia.

The Somali Army, supported by imperialism and with military equipment supplied through the reactionary countries of the area, occupied the greater part of the Ogaden region at the end of 1977. He stated that only internationalist help and the Ethiopian people's struggle were able to safeguard the independence, territorial integrity and the revolution in that country.

Garcia Olivera stated that the Soviet Union, following its traditional policy of supporting the victims of imperialist aggression and the national liberation processes, supplied military equipment and instructors while Cuba decided to send internationalist combatants at the request of the Ethiopian Government beginning last December. He stated that the Cubans struggled alongside the heroic Ethiopian troops for the liberation of its people.

On the other hand, the PCC Central Committee member referred to the attitude of the Chinese leadership, which he labeled as an excellent ally of international reactionary forces trying to divide the revolutionary ranks. The Chinese leadership continues to advance on the path of betraying the legitimate interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, Gracia Olivera stated.

At the conclusion of his special presentation, the Cuban leader wished the Sri Lanka communists successes and called for the strengthening of the friendly relations between the Cuban and Sri Lankan peoples.

CYPRIOT SOCIALIST LEADERS LYSSARIDES ARRIVES

FL271515Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Dr Vassos Lyssarides, chairman of the Cypriot Socialist party, has arrived in our country at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. During his first day in Cuba, the Cypriot socialist leader and his wife were looked after by Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its Foreign Relations General Department.

CPSU DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL272237Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2124 GMT 27 Mar 78 FL

[Text] A CPSU Central Committee delegation headed by (Ivan Petrov), deputy chief of its Construction Department, arrived today in this capital. The visitors have come to Cuba in fulfillment of the exchange plan between the PCC and the CPSU.

At the main offices of the PCC Central Committee, the delegation was received by Aldo Alvarez, chief of the construction department. During the meeting matters of mutual interest in connection with the relations between the two parties were discussed.

RODRIQUEZ RECEIVES BULGARIAN PARTY OFFICIAL

FL272225Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2103 GMT 27 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has received Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chief of its foreign relations department, at the PCC Cental Committee main offices. During the talks the two sides exchanged information on tasks being carried out by the two parties in fulfillment of the resolutions of their respective congresses.

Others participating in the meeting were Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its Foreign Relations General Department, Rafael Polanco and Juan Cardenas, deputy chief and official, respectively, of the department. The Bulgarian leader was accompanied by (Boneli Meshkov) of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee foreign relations department and other officials.

CUBAN, ROMANIAN INSTITUTES SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

FL272140Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP] and the Romanian Institute for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries have signed a 2-year friendship and cooperation agreement in Havana. ICAP President Rene Rodriguez Cruz and Ion Botar, secretary general of the Romanian institute, signed the corresponding documents. The ceremony took place at the ICAP main offices in Havana.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH INTERNATIONAL RICE INSTITUTE

FL280015Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] An agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was signed in Havana today by the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation and the International Institute for Rice Research with headquarters in the Philippines. The document was signed by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Mr Nyle C. Brady, director general of the International Institute for Rice Research. Among many points, the agreement provides for the exchange of scientific workers and specialists to share experiences and information of a scientific and technical nature, as well as the participation in events related to the work of the two institutions.

CTC-PUERTO RICAN UNITED LABOR MOVEMENT MEETING ENDS

FL272125Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1708 GMT 27 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Jesus Escandel, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] Executive Secretariat, has made the closing remarks at the meeting of the executive secretariats of the Puerto Rican United Labor Movement and the CTC which was held at the Palace of Workers. During the event the Puerto Rican delegation and the CTC signed a cooperation agreement. Signing for the Puerto Rico side was Pedro (Grand), coordinator of the Puerto Rico organization, and Jesus Escandel for the CTC. (Grand) explained that the agreement was of vital importance for the organization he represents, and Escandel stated that the meeting was held in an atmosphere of unionism and revolutionary spirit.

Others attending the meeting were Francisco Travieso and Enrique Gutierrez, members of the CTC National Committee.

NATIONAL POLICE VANGUARDS RECEIVE DIPLOMAS

FL272150Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The 1977 national vanguard members of the Revolutionary National Police [PNR] auxiliary forces were presented the diplomas accrediting them as such in a ceremony held at the Manuel Ascunce Theater of Ciudad Libertad. In his closing remarks at the event, Brig Gen Irving Ruiz, vice minister of the interior and member of the PCC Central Committee, referred to the valuable assistance given to the PNR by the auxiliary forces since their creation 17 years ago. Sitting in the presidium were PCC Central Committee members Oscar Fernandez Mell and Facundo Martinez.

MILIAN CASTRO TOURS HOLGUIN CANEFIELDS

FL272205Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Arnaldo Milian Castro, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has toured the canefields of the Urbano Noris sugar mill, the largest in Holguin Province with a grinding average of 1.7 million arrobas of cane. During the tour he observed areas being prepared for planting and others severely affected by the heavy rain. He also visited a vegetable farm of the municipality of Urbano Noris near the Cauto River. There he observed potato harvesting activities, which average some 5,000 quintals per caballeria. He also visited a plantation of Japanese root vegetables being developed in the area. Arnaldo Milian was accompanied by Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Holguin Province; Gerardo Losado, first secretary of the party in Urbano Noris municipality; and Alfredo Gonzalez, provincial delegate of the Agriculture Ministry.

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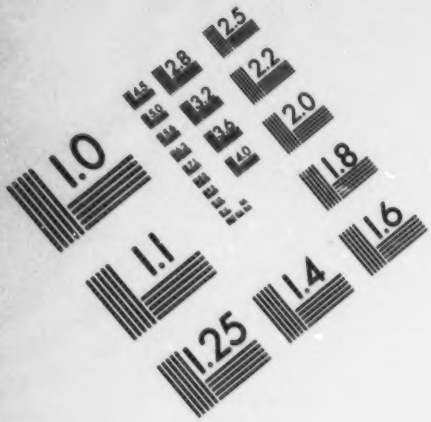

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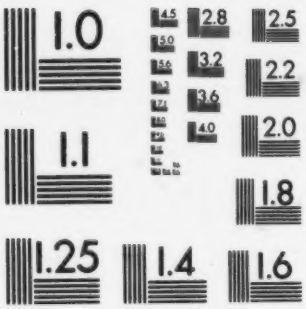

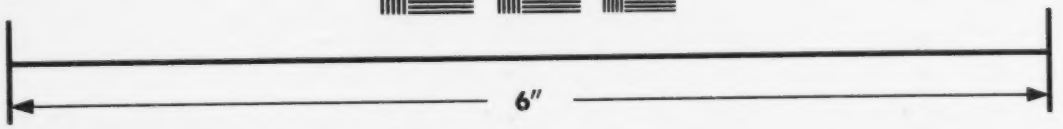

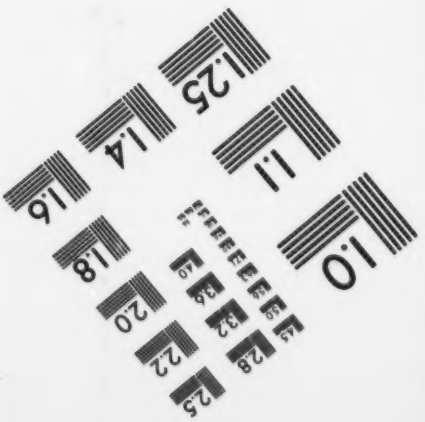

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